Availability of Potable Water

†737. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villagers in the country as on date where clean potable water is not available;

(b) whether it is a fact that a proposal regarding export of water from the country is under Government's consideration;

(c) if so, the details of the said proposal; and

(d) what decision is being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information furnished by the State Governments, as on 1.4.1999, 34460 rural habitations are yet to be provided with drinking water facilities. The information furnished by the State Government on the basis of projections made on a 1% Stratified Random Sample Survey conducted during 1990-91 indicates that 130396 rural habitations are affected with water quality problems.

(b) No proposal for export of drinking water from the country is under consideration with this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increase in Rural Poverty

738. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of rural poverty has gone up considerably in 1998;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being adopted to reverse this trend?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line based on quiennenial Consumer Expenditure Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) estimates of poverty are not available for the year 1998 as the latest poverty estimates from Planning Commission are available only for 1993-94.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.